GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5202
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2003
DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT AND RICE
Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of wheat and rice distributed among the people living below poverty line during the last three years;

(b) whether these prople have not been provided wheat and rice in effect; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a): The quantum of wheat and rice distributed among the people living below poverty line during the last three years is as follows:-

(Figures in Lakh Tonnes)

YEAR	RICE	WHEAT
2000-01	59.19	37.59
2001-02	67.40	49.91
2002-03	80.18	66.65

(Upto Feb.03)

(b)&(c): The distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System (PDS) through the network of Fair Price Shops to the consumers is the responsibility of the State Governments. To ensure that the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population is enabled to fully utilize the benefits under the PDS, Government of India has been regularly advising the StateGovernments to improve offtake of foodgrains.